

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claim 1 is herein amended. No new matter has been added. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the telephone interview of December 16, 2008. Applicants' Statement of the Substance of the Interview is incorporated herein.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (WO 03/081322 A2) in view of Sadao (JP 11-002812).

It is the position of the Office Action that Ito discloses the embodiments as claimed, with the exception of teaching the use of a woven glass fabric in the polymer substrate layer or the use of barrier and hard-coating layers. The Office Action relies on Sadao to provide this teaching.

Ito discloses a polarizing plate which includes a polymer film, a polarizer, a polymer substrate and an optically anisotropic layer containing liquid crystal. Sadao discloses a woven glass fiber cloth, but does not provide any comments with respect to the angle of the warp or weft relative to the absorption axis. Sadao also does not disclose a resin sheet having a cured resin layer containing glass cloth.

In response to Applicants' previously filed remarks, the Office Action states that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have oriented the woven glass fabric in the claimed manner as aligning the fibers along with the absorption axis (zero degrees

relative to axis) would avoid the introduction of a third axis into the LCD, which might distort the image.”

As clarified in the telephone conversation of December 16, 2008, the Examiner interprets Sadao such that the warp or weft of Sadao is oriented at zero degrees relative to the absorption axis. In other words, the Examiner presumes that in Sadao, one of the warp or weft is disposed at exactly zero degrees relative to the absorption axis, and the other of the warp or weft is disposed at exactly 90 degrees relative to the absorption axis. Thus, the fibers of Sadao are not “skewed” relative to the absorption axis. The Examiner additionally clarified that since claim 1 recited that one of the warp or weft is oriented “at an angle of 5 degrees *or less*” relative to the absorption axis, this recitation includes a warp or weft oriented at an angle of zero relative to the absorption axis. In other words, claim 1 prior to the amendment herein recited both a “skewed” and a “non-skewed” configuration.

In response, Applicants herein amend the claims in order to exclude a warp or weft zero degrees relative to the absorption axis. Specifically, Applicants herein amend the claims to recite that “any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle of greater than 0 degrees and less than or equal to 5 degrees relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate.” Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment is sufficient to distinguish over the combination of Ito and Sadao.

Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not add new matter. Since the examples in the specification provide for a 0 degree, 3 degree and 5 degree skew, there is support for both a skew of $0 < x < 5$ and a skew of $x = 5$. Thus, there is support for a skew of $0 < x \leq 5$. In

other words, since the original claim scope included a skew of zero to five degrees, inclusive, the amendment further specifies the claimed subject matter, and does not introduce new matter. Therefore, even though there is no *ipsis verbis* literal support for this claim language, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment is not new matter.

As noted above, neither Sadao nor Ito disclose the structural feature that any one of weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth is oriented at an angle greater than 0 degrees and less than or equal to 5 degrees. Further, there is no reason why one having ordinary skill in the art would modify the combination of Sadao and Ito to include this feature.

Furthermore, as noted above, the Office Action states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have oriented the woven glass fabric as “aligning the fibers along with the absorption axis (zero degrees relative to the axis) would avoid the introduction of a third axis into the LCD, which might distort the image.” However, one having ordinary skill in the art would have no reason to set any one of the weft yarn and warp yarn of the glass cloth to be oriented at an angle of greater than 0 degrees relative to an absorption axis of the polarizing plate.

Finally, Applicants note that the laminated film of the claimed embodiments is excellent in terms of mechanical strength and has a low coefficient of thermal expansion. Furthermore, the laminated film of the claimed embodiments achieves an excellent display quality of an image display device, causing less occurrence of light leakage in a black display mode.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of cited art does not disclose or suggest the embodiments as claimed. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/578,308
Art Unit: 1794

Amendment
Attorney Docket No.: 062490

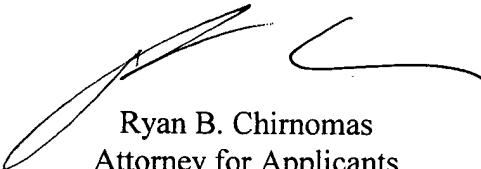
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Ryan B. Chirnomas
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,527
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

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